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EXPERTS RECOMMEND CREATION OF REGIONAL NEWS AGENCY

PA071200 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1618 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 5 May (ACAN-EFE)--A group of mass communications experts convened by UNESCO has approved a project creating the Latin American Special Information Services Agency [Agnecia Latinoamericana de Servicios Especiales de Informacion--ALASEI]. Several recommendations were made among them the need for ALASEI to be independent and to prevent government interference. The final document, drafted after 3 days of debate (2-4 May), was issued today in this capital, the site of the meeting.

The proposal for creating an agency for special services in Latin America (reportage, radio programs and videocassettes for television) sponsored by UNESCO was submitted to a debate, which initially revealed the existence of conflicting positions but eventually resulted in agreement. The danger that the new agency may become government-oriented because its financing will be based on state contributions was widely argued by several participants and was unanimously accepted as a danger that must be avoided.

In this regard, point five of the final document established "the need to make ALASEI an example of autonomy, independence and professionalism not only for the states of the region but also for any other pressure group." In another point (two) it said that "an agency of these characteristics and objectives must evolve toward a form of mixed and not state property."

ALASEI's main goal is to disseminate valuable and interesting material which is not currently receiving the required attention by the press media.

Point six of the final document says that "the experts also agreed that ALASEI should not avoid information areas which imply confrontation, crisis and, in general, disagreements between nations, social groups or institutions."

The experts asked the UNESCO director general, the International Telecommunications Union and the governments of the region to work for a reduction of the charges on telephone circuits used by the press, and of the Telex and cable charges used by all press services without discrimination, since these charges represent one of the main obstacles to the advancement of mass communications.

Finally, the meeting of experts agreed to ask the states for full and absolute guarantees for access to information sources, receipt and dissemination of the services as well as due respect, freedom of action and the physical security of newsmen.

Three general directors of regional news agencies attended the seminar and contributed their experience as managers. They were: Gustavo Robreno, representative of the nonalined pool and general director of PRENSA LATINA; Harry Mayers of the Caribbean News Agency (CAN); and Francisco Rubiales of ACAN-EFE.

On the opening day, the experts met with Costa Rican Vice Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus who supported their concept and mentioned ACAN-EFE's work in Central America as a positive regional experience which should be taken into account.

In addition to the aforementioned news agencies' directors, the following experts also participated: Gudo Fernandez, president of the Committee for Freedom of the Press of the IAPA (Inter-American Press Association); Eleazar Diaz Rangel, president of the Latin American Federation of Newsmen; Luis Alberto Sole, general director of the Inter-American Radio Association [Sociedad Interamericana de Radiodifusion--AIR]; Jose Maria Pasquini, secretary general of the Association of Latin American Jounalists for Development; and Jorge Sehtson, chief of the LAES Office for Information.

Also present were Luis Anibal Gomez, president of the Latin American Association of Communications Researchers, Alberto Ruiz Eldredge, UNESCO consultant, Roberto Savio, general director of Interpress Service and Marco Ordonez Andrade, general director of the International Center of Advanced Studies on Mass Communications for Latin America. They drafted the report on the creation of ALASEI which was submitted for debate.

The recommendations made by the experts meeting in San Jose will now go to the UNESCO General Secretariat which will draft a document on the creation of the new agency which will be submitted to LAES member countries and the international and national organizations which may somehow be connected with ALASEI.

PERUVIAN, BOLIVIAN MINISTERS ARRIVE IN QUITO

PA080020 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 May 79 PA

[Text] Peruvian Foreign Minister Carlos Garcia Bedoya and Bolivian Foreign Minister Raul Botelho Gosalvez arrived in Quito today to participate in the meeting of foreign ministers and plenipotentiaries of the Andean group. The meeting, which will begin tomorrow, will evaluate the progress of the Andean integration process since its establishment 10 years ago. It will also prepare the agenda for the meeting of the five Andean presidents which will be held at the end of May in Cartagena, Colombia.

Peruvian Integration Minister du Bois and Colombian Development Minister Gilberto Echeverry arrived over the weekend. The Colombian and Venezuelan foreign ministers and plenipotentiares are scheduled to arrive on 8 May.

Peruvian Foreign Minister Interview

PA080021 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 May 79 PA

[Text] Peruvian Foreign Minister Carlos Garcia Bedoya said in Quito today that the 10 years of the Andean Pact have served to unite the member countries more than the previous 140 years of independent life which tended to separate them. The minister arrived in Quito to participate in the meeting of foreign ministers of Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador who will make preparations for the meeting of Andean presidents to be held in Cartagena, Colombia, on 26 May.

In an interview granted to EFE, Garcia Bedoya said that the Andean Pact has achieved the unity of the member countries and has created deeper and more lasting interests among them. According to the foreign minister, the unity has risen above the border conflicts and all disagreements or disputes which might still exist between some nations. He stressed the great importance of the member countries' action to give their common life a new dimension and outlook which is the only real guarantee for their survival in the future.

The Peruvian foreign minister expressed confidence that the Ecuadorean Government will place special interest in solving any problem that might emerge with the arrest of Peruvian citizens. Garcia Bedoya told EFE that Peru had been very concerned about the about the charges presented in January regarding the arrest and torture of Peruvian citizens in Ecuador and that some cases are still pending. But, he added, we are sure that any situation of this nature will receive special attention from the Ecuadorean Government so that the treatment given to Peruvians arrested for common crimes or violation of immigration laws will be just and will correspond to the one that should exist between brother countries.

INTERIOR MINISTER OUTLINES NEW LABOR STRUCTURE

PY041900 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1952 GMT 3 May 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 May (NA)--Interior Minister Gen Albano Harguindeguy revealed here today that a law on "workers union associations" will be promulgated creating "unions representative of various activities, which will be limited to geographical areas, for the defense of workers' interests specifically." Referring to another subject, he said "action is being taken to improve the socioeconomic situation of the people."

Speaking at the law school here today, the interior minister made an assessment of the accomplishments of the armed forces government, and pointed out that establishing procedures to reach the basic goals is "a difficult task in which the law school has an important role to play as an intermediary organization."

After urging the metropolitan lawyers to disseminate "the concepts of political science applicable to the case," General Harguindeguy told his hosts "to remember also that the role of intermediary organizations are particularly important in this present period." The minister noted the validity of the principle which attaches to the state a role subsidiary to private activities, and then made a rapid evaluation of the objectives of the national reorganization process, objectives "which are being achieved."

He added: "Since I will not comment on educational and international questions to avoid taking too long, I will limit myself to a brief reference to the employers' and labor organizations." Harguindeguy said that "it is in this area that distortions of the most elementary logic have gone the farthest. As for enterprises, we want them to be put up as corporations with a civilian legal status as they see fit and possible. We are not interested in organizations coming into being, growing and multiplying under the government's wing and for the government's service, as happened with the General Economic Confederation and its member organizations.

"We are interested in a change that will be implemented through the law of labor union associations, creating unions representative of every activity, within geographical boundaries, for the protection of labor interests specifically, and no other interests." Harguindeguy continued: "You have witnessed sadly the extremes to which we have been pushed by a partisan and political labor movement commanding an excessive and anomalous economic power through the management of public funds collected under provisions of Law 18610 and the obligatory membership fees. We are trying to avoid a repetition of this."

On the same subject later, General Harguindeguy noted that "the Interior Ministry is particularly interested in making sure that workers organizations are just that, and that they do not become anomalous and destabilizing political forces." The minister also said that "we have created a truly juridical and social order" and "we have an independent judiciary branch whose decisions are respected." He emphasized: "The existence of social order is an everyday reality, much to the chagrin of those who want to upset it."

Harguindeguy then said: "We are on the way to improving the socioeconomic situation of the people while we go through a period of economic and financial transformation. We are doing this without causing unemployment and without an excessive and inhumane social cost. Doing it this way takes time, but it is less costly for Argentine families."

Referring to another area, General Harguindeguy said another objective of the national government is "to make sure that the care of the people's health is not managed by more or less privileged sectors. We think it is necessary that the people be given the best health care possible in line with our real capacity as a nation, remembering that solidarity has to exist in a community such as this." Harguindeguy added: "On this, the government has no pact with anybody, no commitment or obligation to benefit only unions or other related organizations."

General Harguindeguy reiterated the government's goal to insure "the eventual establishment ofaa republican, representative and federal democracy in accordance with reality, with the need for solutions and the progress of the Argentine people." The minister also emphasized that "it should then be understood that the armed forces are not supporting projects odious to our organizations, but projects that lie within the purest traditional principles of the Constitution. These concepts are part of the Constitution--republic (representative and federal), people and progress."

He said: "There is only one thing missing in the Constitution--democracy. Nowadays this is a basic element and is linked to the concept and the historic reality of each period." He said: "This is where we have failed in the past because we have not been able to convey its true dimensions and content with our ideas and achievements. Many of the ills we have suffered, whose consequences we are still experiencing, came from this."

General Harguindeguy also said that "many citizens are used to the idea that democracy means having political organizations to carry out their activities within legal rules, to let them act according to their ideas (which is all right within limits), to establish temporary terms for the exercise of power and to hold elections, and that after all formal requirements have been fulfilled--he emphasized the word formal--accept with resignation all the things the party elected by the majority wants or does not want to do." He added: "At this time the winning party, and frequently its organization members, forget that there are also other groups besides them--the minorities, which are also part of the government, and the silent and suffering majority."

In concluding his discussion, General Harguindeguy pointed out that "what has been said seems to indicate that the armed forces are involved in carrying out a program that does not lead anyplace. This is not so. It should be kept in mind that what we are trying to establish is conditioned to reality and to the demands for solutions and the progress of the Argentine people."

THREE FORMER OFFICIALS CLEARED OF WRONGDOING

PY051915 Paris AFP in Spanish 1152 GMT 5 May 79 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 5 May (AFP)--It was officially reported here today that the civil court has declared the three former commanders in chief of the armed forces, among them former President Alejandro Lanusse, definitely innocent in the notorious Aluar case.

The issues go back to Lanusse's presidency, when Argentina signed a controversial contract with the firm Aluar SACI for the installation of an alumninum plant in Puerto Madryn, a town 1,100 km south of Buenos Aires on the Atlantic coast of Chubut Province.

Together with Lanusse, the other members of the governing military junta of that period, former Navy Commander Pedro Gnavi, former Air Force Commander Carlos Rey, and former Defense Minister Rafael Caceres Monie, were accused and detained for several weeks last year, when the case was made public once again.

The judge last year acquitted them of charges of ideological falsity, violating of the duties of public servants, illicit gain, fraudulent administration and negotiations incompatible with the exercise of public office. The court decision made known now, which confirms the judge's ruling, was made at the Criminal and Penal Court of Appeals by judges Raul Rodriguez Araya, Fernadeo Mantaras and Victor Guerrero Leconte.

PASTOR, FOLLE SET DATE FOR VIDELA-MENDEZ MEETING

PY080258 Paris AFP in Spanish 2337 GMT 7 May 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 May (AFP)--Local diplomatic sources tonight indicated that the foreign ministers of Argentina and Uruguay today set the date for the meeting of the presidents of the two countries for the end of June.

During the lunch they attended today at the Argentine Foreign Ministry, Brig Gen Carlos Washington Pastor and his Uruguayan colleague, Adolfo Folle Martinez, studied various aspects of bilateral relations and discussed the inauguration of a turbine at the Salto Grande hydroelectric plant, which both countries are building on the Uruguay River. The date of the inauguration of this first generator, which will be attended by the presidents of Argentina and Uruguay, will take place between [illegible] and 28 June. Other high-ranking authorities from the two nations will also attend.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry maintained absolute secrecy with regard to the 2-hour meeting held by ministers Pastor and Folle Martinez. It was announced that no information concerning the visit by the Uruguayan minister will be provided, since the visit is considered strictly private.

However, in diplomatic circles it was known that Folle Martinez took advantage of his visit to Buenos Aires, a private one, to meet with his Argentine colleague and continue with the preparations for the presidential meeting. The Uruguayan foreign minister will probably return to Montevideo early tomorrow morning.

DELEGATION'S EUROPEAN TRIP SAID 'FRUITFUL'

PY072050 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1005 GMT 7 May 79 PY

[Excerpt] London, 7 May (TELAM)--The result of the visit to London and Frankfurt of the Argentine delegation presided over by Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz has been very fruitful for economic cooperation. This is shown by the quality and quantity of businessmen who attended the Argentine exhibits in London, by the number of businessmen who accompanied the delegation and by the questions and discussions which ensued after the talk of the Argentine businessmen.

The minister's activities have not been strictly restricted to official appointments and attending the Canning and Chatham House exhibits; he also held several meetings with businessmen and bankers representing the highest levels of the British industrial and financial world.

FOREIGN MINISTER: TIME NOT RIPE FOR TIES WITH CHILE

PY080141 La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur in Spanish 2330 GMT 7 May 79 PY

[Text] In a dispatch from Lima, Bolivian Foreign Minister Raul Botelho said Bolivia is not maintaining any contact with Chile on the resumption of diplomatic relations because the proper conditions do not exist, although during his recent visit to Montevideo the Chilean ambassador there approached him for a talk. The Bolivian minister praised Peru's decision to grant Bolivia a free port at (Ilo Mataravi) in the southern region, noting that this will be beneficial for Bolivian trade.

Botelho, who departed for Quito with his Peruvian colleague, Carlos Garcia Bedoya, to participate in the Andean Pact meeting, stated that this pact has had positive results in the 10 years it has been in effect, although it presented some difficulties regarding the division of labor. The foreign ministers meeting in Quito is in preparation for the meeting of presidents of Cartagena Agreement countries to be held 26 May in Colombia.

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE OVER TRANSIT FARE HIKE

PY080159 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2302 GMT 7 May 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 7 May (LATIN)--A wave of student disturbances which even included attacks against public transportation vehicles took place today in this capital, forcing the transportation workers to declare a general strike until guarantees for that sector are reestablished, union sources announced.

Thousands of students piled into the streets today to take part in violent demonstrations to protest the increase in public transportation fares and the elimination of reduced fares for children and students according to explanations provided by the leaders of the Secondary School Students Federation [FES]. Some furious demonstrators attacked buses in the city's downtown streets with rocks, while other groups did the same in other populated areas.

Leaders of the La Paz drivers union, which represents drivers and bus owners, emphatically denied that they had raised fares for students and announced their decision to stop work "in view of the attacks against its members" until calm returns to this capital. The decision has been severely criticized by other sectors because of the inconveniences caused by the suspension of public transportation.

AIR FORCE TO EXPAND, RENEW INVENTORY OF AIRCRAFT

PY072330 Paris AFP in Spanish 2052 GMT 7 May 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 7 May (AFP)--Bolivia will expand and modernize its combat and transport plane inventory. The chief of the Bolivian Air Force, Gen Gaston Lupo, made this announcement to the press, saying that our interceptor force is significantly inferior to those of our neighbors and we have to improve our air capacity, especially in the area of interception.

Canadian subsonic T-33 planes form the basis of the interceptor group, but these will be replaced by new ones bought in the United States or Europe. Lupo said this "will be done in accordance with our financial resources, offers made to us and our real needs."

UNIONS' STRATEGY PUZZLES LABOR MINISTER

PY071615 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 7 May 79 PY

[Excerpt] Labor Minister Murilo Macedo is again concerned over the situation of the Sao Paulo ABC metalworkers unions. Macedo said he was surprised by the decision of the workers' leaders not to present a counterproposal to the businessmen on salary problems. He said this will create a new impasse in negotiations between employers and employees. The minister also recalled that at the meeting held in [word indistinct], the workers' leaders had presented three different alternatives and counterproposals which had left him quite satisfied. He will, therefore, look to those leaders today for an explanation as to why they reversed their decision.

The labor minister also said he would mediate in the conflict again, under the condition that only what was discussed before would be treated; otherwise, it would be very difficult to reach a consensus.

University Professors Strike

PY080254 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 6 May 79 p 1 PY

[Text] The suspension of classes at private universities in Rio de Janeiro as of 14 May--unless there is a satisfactory proposal from the employers by 13 May--was decided yesterday by the professors. This will be the first legal strike since 1964 in the state. In their first collective labor contract, the professors demand a 60-percent salary increase plus additional payments for other tasks.

Physicians at private hospitals and clinics in Rio de Janeiro declared a strike during which they will see only 12 patients per 4 hours of work, and called for a meeting on 17 May to propose a general strike. Meanwhile they will investigate and report irregularities at the hospitals and clinics.

Only 200 Rio de Janeiro state and municipal employees under contract attended the meeting held at Iraja to discuss demands to be made from the governor and mayor--a basic salary of 6,000 and 4,000 cruzeiros plus appointment as payrolled employees.

In Sao Paulo, where hundreds of beef cattle are being slaughtered without sanitary inspection due to the undeclared strike by employees of the Agriculture Secretariat, Governor Paulo Maluf will respond today to the conciliation proposal made by the Sao Paulo chapter of the Brazilian Lawyers Guild--a 2,000-cruzeiro raise for all state employees, no punishment for strikers, payment for days out of work and an end to intimidation by DOPS.

GENERAL ABREU AGAIN SANCTIONED BY 20-DAY ARREST

PY072150 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2110 GMT 7 May 79 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 7 May (LATIN)--Dissident General Hugo de Andrade Abreu (ret) was arrested today in Rio de Janeiro for a 20-day disciplinary sanction imposed by Army Minister Walter Pires. The measure is directly related to the book "The Other Side of Power," written by the dissident general and former chief of the military household during the government of President Ernesto Geisel.

According to Pires' decision, Abreu published in his book, which came out at the beginning of this month, military and official matters which could provoke discord among the military, and offended his superiors "in a flagrant violation of military courtesy."

The army minister's decision, made on 4 May, was disclosed this afternoon at the same time that the dissident officer was taken under arrest to the 1st Division, based in Rio de Janeiro, where he will serve his punishment. This is the second disciplinary arrest for Abreu. He was first arrested in mid-October 1978, when he was still on active duty as deputy chief of the army's Personnel Department.

According to the minister's decision, Abreu was "indiscreet" in revealing official matters and disclosing "military facts which could hurt the prestige of the army." He also accused Abreu of offending his superiors, of trying to provoke discord among the military and, in this manner, "damaging the principles of discipline."

Abreu Appeal

PY080340 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 8 May 79 PY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--Late tomorrow afternoon or Wednesday morning lawyer (Rafael de Almeida Magalhaes) will be ready to present to the Federal Appeals Court the defense of General Hugo Abreu.

The lawyer today still had not determined the correct manner in which to try to annul the general's imprisonment. Only late this afternoon was he able to see the text of the order issued by the Army Ministry. After a detailed study he will be able to determine whether he will present a habeas corpus plea or decide on another legal measure.

Congress Debate

PY080343 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 7 May 79 PY

[From the congressional report]

[Text] Speaking for the Brazilian Democratic Movement leadership, Deputy Walter Silva read a note expressing surprise over the arrest of General Abreu, former chief of the military household, because of a book he published. The note states that the government is not building greatness when it answers criticism with imprisonment. It makes clear that an officer who felt offended should straighten out his facts because he can avail himself of every government resource, including radio and television. It points out how difficult it is to understand why imprisonment was used to answer Abreu's charges.

Deputy Claudino Sales, deputy leader of the National Renewal Alliance, stated that the army minister did not have any option in Abreu's case; he had to order Abreu's arrest in compliance with the army's disciplinary rules. Sales noted that Abreu in his book had infringed several articles of army regulations, stimulated discord and was indiscreet in disclosing facts which he came to know by virtue of his job. Sales added that since Abreu did not have any sound reason to reject General Figueiredo's presidential candidacy, he opposed Figueiredo out of sheer resentment at not being appointed president.

CUBILLOS REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR VATICAN MEDIATION

PY071714 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2156 GMT 5 May 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 5 May (LATIN)--Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos said here today in a statement issued to the press that "the Chilean Government has complete confidence in the mediation proceedings" on the Argentine-Chilean border dispute over the southern region which started yesterday in Rome.

The statement issued by the Chilean Interior Ministry noted that at the start of the mediation proceedings in Rome in accordance with agreements signed in Montevideo on 8 January 1979 the international press published several statements that support this process, others that question it and a few that are hasty judgments.

The statement adds: "The foreign minister has asserted that Chile will--by avoiding incidents and by not creating confusion with premature opinions and statements during the complex process of studies and negotiations--support the Montevideo agreements, particularly those governing the atmosphere of rapprochement which the Holy See has requested."

DETAILS OF NEW COPPER PROJECTS REVEALED

PY071450 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0023 GMT 7 May 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 6 May (LATIN)--Chilean Mines Minister Carlos Quinonez predicted a promising future for Coquimbo Department with the development of three copper projects within the next 5 years. Admiral Quinonez, who visited the area over the weekend with president Augusto Pinochet, made this statement in discussing the "El Indio", "Andacollo" and "Los Pelambres" projects, which will require a total investment of $1 billion.

The minister explained that "El Indio" will need an investment of $100 million; "Andacollo" $350 million and "Los Pelambres" between $400 and $500 million. He added that in addition to these, other similar undertakings although less costly, "will make the Fourth Region (Coquimbo) another important copper region of the country."

According to recent government studies, Coquimbo is "an extreme poverty area" because of the lack of jobs and a high rate of unemployment. These and other factors have a negative effect on the area. Quinonez said, however, that this will be overcome because these projects will demand a high rate of manual labor.

"Los Pelambres" is near the Argentine border, and its reserves are estimated at 428 million tons of copper. "El Indio" is in the Andes, 470 km north of Santiago, and its reserves are estimated at 1.7 million tons. This deposit is in the exploration and survey stage. This task is being carried out by the Saint Joseph Mining Company, which plans to install a plant with a processing capacity of 1,250 tons per day, thus increasing copper production fourfold. "Andacollo" has already finished its exploration and survey stages, which were carried out by the Canadian "Noranda" firm. This project has a potential of 300 million tons of copper.

OFFICIAL ON CULTIVATION OF COCA BY PEASANTS

PA041903 Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--Camilo Cortez, commissioner of San Jose del Guaviare, said today that the Mafia has encouraged the peasants of the region of Guaviare to increase their cultivation of coca. The Indians plant coca for their personal use but they are encouraged to increase their cultivated land in order to establish large-scale production of cocaine for export. He added that although there have been official commissions [words indistinct] this situation has not been solved [words indistinct]. He said that the uncontrolled increase of coca cultivation can be prevented through better government policies to promote the planting of rubber.

ARMY SEIZES CLANDESTINE MARIHUANA PLANTATION

PA071337 Paris AFP in English 0642 GMT 7 May 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 7 May (AFP)--The Colombian army moved into a 10,000 hectare (40 square mile) clandestine marihuana plantation in the north of the country over the weekend, the Defence Ministry announced last night. The crops, capable of producing some 30,000 tons of the weed, were to be burned off this week. Fifteen people were arrested at the Caribbean shore site on the Guajira Peninsula some 1,200 km (750 miles) north of here, the communique said. An American plane preparing to fly out 10 tons of hashish was seized in the same region Sunday, the statement added. Pilot and copilot escaped. Colombian authorities have seized more than 50 ships and planes engaged in drug trafficking since the beginning of their current antinarcotics drive.

BRIEFS

POPULATION GROWTH DECREASE--Colombian Health Minister Alfonso Jaramillo Salazar informed the World Health Organization in Geneva today that Colombia's rate of population increase has gone down from 3.9 percent to 2.2 percent during the present decade thanks to the government's family planning efforts. The general mortality rate has gone down to 8.9 per thousand. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 May 79 PA]

DEATH OF CONSERVATIVE LEADER--Jorge Uribe Botero, senator and prominent Conservative Party leader, died of a heart attack today at dawn in Bogota. He was 2 and 1/2 months away from becoming vice president of the senate. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 May 79]

DENGUE, MALARIA OUTBREAK--According to unofficial reports, 35 persons died in Caqueta today, the victims of a strange disease known as dengue. The information was given to the intendant of Caqueta, Col Campo Elias Bocanegra. The region has been declared an emergency zone because of the outbreak of this disease which caused 6 deaths last week, according to official sources. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 79 PA] Acting Health Minister Roberto Lievano Perdomo has reported that a Health Ministry commission will be sent to Caqueta intendancy where 39 persons have allegedly died from a malaria epidemic. The official said that the epidemic is mainly affecting the residents of the San Vicente del Caguan region where health services are very deficient. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 May 79 PA] Acting Health Minister Roberto Lievano today denied that 38 persons had died in Caqueta from a disease caused by an unidentified virus or by any other cause or disease. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 May 79 PA]

JARRIN DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN CALDERON MURDER

PA041601 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] For 5 consecutive hours of questioning before the military court, Brig Gen Bolivar Jarrin Cahuenas flatly denied his involvement in the killing of Abdon Calderon Munoz. He denied having given money to Maj Jaime Hermosa so that he, in turn, could give it to lawyer Abel Salazar, Guillermo Mendez or Luis Garcia. Said officer [Hermosa], General Jarrin emphasized, is being untruthful. He reiterated that neither the minister nor the ministry decided to give money to people involved in the crime. If, he went on, Major Hermosa for inexplicable reasons gave money, as his depositions indicate, he will have to answer for those actions and face the appropriate legal sanction.

I do not know, Jarrin said, how the crime was committed or planned. He added: I had nothing against Abdon Calderon and could not have had anything against him, because he never attacked me or criticized my work at the Government Ministry. I want to note that there was no reason for the crime to have originated at the Government Ministry while I headed it. I did not ask or order anybody to beat, let alone make an attempt on the life of, Abdon Calderon. There were no personal reasons of any sort for me to do it.

CEPE RAISES PRICES FOR EXPORTED PETROLEUM

PA051914 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 May 79 PA

[Text] The Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation [CEPE] has set the price of $20.36 per barrel for export crude during the month of May. The new price is an increase of 6 percent over the April price of $19.21 per barrel. Regarding the price of the crude sold to the (?Merritt) Company, according to an agreement signed in March by which CEPE committee itself to loading 14,000 barrels a day, the new price for this month will be $20.40 per barrel, also a 6-percent increase over the April price.

CFP, ID WILL NOT FORM CONGRESSIONAL PACTS

PA050247 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] Neither the Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP] nor the Democratic Left [ID] will make any pacts in the National Congress. Asaad Bucaram, List 4 representative and CFP national leader, said his party will not enter into any pacts to attain the Legislative Chamber presidency. Bucaram said the struggle of [word indistinct] legislators will be to promulgate just laws for the people, especially in the labor sector.

Rodrigo Borja, member of the ID leadership, said in turn: We are not going to form alliances with any other group. The ID will retain its own ideology, legislators and program, he said. However, he mentioned the possibility of working jointly in congress with progressive groups to improve the people's living standard.

BRIEFS

ZONES UNDER QUARANTINE--Guayaquil, Ecuador, 4 May (AFP)--The Agriculture and Livestock Ministry has declared the provinces of El Oro, Loja and Zamora-Chinchipe, which border Peru, under quarantine. The measure was taken to prevent the coffee rust disease that is affecting plantations in Peru and Bolivia from spreading to Ecuador. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2348 GMT 4 May 79 PA]

RECORD FLOODING CONTINUES ALONG PARAGUAY RIVER

PY071805 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 7 May 79 p 8 PY

[Excerpts] As of noon yesterday the Paraguay River had risen to a level reached only once before, in the 1905 floods. However, the water level of 6.62 meters registered at Bahia Negra yesterday is the same level reached in 1905, and according to studies made by the Brazilian Government this record will be broken by several centimeters.

The people of Bahia Negra have been left without solid ground and are living on platforms and on high ground, waiting for the water level to return to normal.

The water level has increased at all ports, including the capital, and the general situation is worsening. Many people in Asuncion are homeless, and there is a need for an official organization to take measures to relocate them. It will probably take several months for the water to recede.

REDUCTION IN FUEL DELIVERIES CALLED 'PRESSURE'

PY041319 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 1 May 79 p 11 PY

[Excerpt] In an action many view as pressure aimed at forcing the government to accept an increase in fuel prices, REPSA [Paraguayan Refinery, Inc.] has reduced by 50-60 percent the delivery of its products for domestic consumption. This situation was immediately felt in this capital, and has aroused fears among agricultural sectors, which are now at the peak of their harvesting activities.

Fear for Harvest

PY071418 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 5 May 79 p 9 PY

[Excerpts] More than 7,000 tractors and hundreds of harvesters stopped working in Itapua Department yesterday due to the fuel shortage. Officials of the National Development Bank expressed concern at the difficult situation experienced in the agricultural areas since the harvest of soybeans and the sowing of wheat is now going on.

Bank officials said the national wheat plan programmed by the government aimed at achieving self-sufficiency may fail if the fuel shortage continues.

GUARANTEES FROM STROESSNER ON PRISONERS SOUGHT

PY051949 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1820 GMT 5 May 79 PY

[Text] Caracas, 5 May (LATIN)--The Latin American Foundation for Human Rights and Social Development sent a message to Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner today requesting guarantees for 10 Paraguayans and 1 Argentine arrested or missing in that country. The message, signed by Catholic Priest Juan Vives Suria, names Paraguayans Agustin Goiburu, Derlis Villagra, Miguel Angel Soler, Fausto Carrillo, Octavio Gonzalez Acosta, Severo Acosta, Virgilio Barreiro, Carlos Brana, Gumersino Britez and Eduardo Bogado, and Argentinan Amilcar Santuco. It also requested the end of the trial of Christian Democrat leader Irala Burgos and of Carmen de Lara Castro.

SUSPENSION OF GUARANTEES EXTENDED FOR 30 DAYS

PY051420 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 May 79 PY

[Text] The government yesterday extended for another 30 days the suspension of the guarantees contained in Article 56 of the Constitution throughout the territory of the republic, because it feels that (?the causes) are still at hand that justify the measure. Decree No 018, which approves the prolongation, entrusts the enforcement of the measure to the War, Navy, Aeronautics and Interior ministries and to the Joint Command of the armed forces. Article 56 of the Constitution says that a person may only be detained through a written order by a judge or by the authorities in charge of preserving public order unless he is apprehended in the act of committing a crime.

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS U.S. TUNA IMPORT BAN

PA071436 Paris AFP in Spanish 1323 GMT 7 May 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 7 May (AFP)--Peru has officially protested the U.S. Government's ban on all imports of Peruvian tuna after Peru arrested the tuna boat "Don Juan" in its territorial waters. The protest was delivered yesterday, Sunday, by the Peruvian Foreign Ministry to the U.S. ambassador, Foreign Minister Carlos Garcia Bedoya confirmed.

Peru feels the measure goes against the inter-American system of effective cooperation and affects other fishing nations. Peru considers this attitude "frustrating" because it was believed that the United States had overcome its retaliatory policy.

AUTHORITIES DENOUNCE SUBVERSION BY TEACHERS

PA061653 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0301 GMT 6 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Lima, 5 May (EFE)--The Interior Ministry today denounced the existence of a subversive plot among teachers in the country which "intended to use the students." The ministry reported that 29 students are in custody. The ministry issued a communique indicating that members of Patria Roja, a political group of the extreme left which has ties to the teachers, had held "the first national meeting of the coordination and unification committee of the high school students movement." This meeting was held in Lima on 29 April-1 May and was attended by students from all over Peru.

The communique says the meeting "was called by extremist leaders to coordinate subversive activities." According to the communique, the police corroborated all this. It also says that 29 students who went to the meeting were taken into custody and are waiting for their parents to pick them up. The communique does not say if any of the persons who organized the meeting were arrested. The Interior Ministry is asking parents to try to control their children's activities "so they will not be used by political groups which have nothing to do with education."

Meanwhile, the Single Union of Education Workers (SUTEP) has announced a teachers general strike for 4 June. SUTEP, with which most of the 130,000 public school teachers in the country are affiliated, alleges that so far the Peruvian Government has not kept the promise it made to teachers following last year's teachers strike, which lasted 3 months and in which they asked for a better salary and other benefits.

A busfare increase last year, which also affected the students, was also the cause of serious disorders in the country and left one student dead and others injur[illegible].

CUBAN EXILE GROUP ARRIVES IN CARACAS

PA071720 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1558 GMT 7 May 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 7 May (EFE)--Seventy-five Cuban exiles, most of them former political prisoners, arrived in Caracas last night from Havana. In a brief talk with newsmen at Simon Bolivar International Airport, the exiles expressed their desire to remain in Venezuela, where their relatives await them.

Mariano Vegochea, who served only 11 years of a 30-year-term and was released in 1971, said he was very happy to be in Caracas, where he will live with his family. Marta Tuguet said she spent 3 years in prison on counterrevolutionary charges. She added that the political struggle on the island is more difficult now because the revolution has been stabilized and the best thing for those who disagree with its ideology is to leave.

The group was taken almost immediately to Los Teques, a few kilometers from the capital, where they will stay temporarily until they find permanent homes. The new arrivals bring the number of Cuban exiles who have come to Venezuela since last December, when the Cuban Government permitted several former prisoners to leave, to 200.

FUEL OIL SELLING AT ALMOST $20 PER BARREL

PA071942 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 3 May 79 pp 2-19 PA

[Text] Venezuela is selling desulfurized fuel oil (residual fuel) at almost $20 a barrel, an increase of $7 per barrel over the 1978 price of this refined product. Fuel oil with a high sulfur content also has a relatively high price. This means that the 700,000 barrels a day (approximately) of fuel oil being exported by Venezuela is being sold at high prices.

The information was released by the Venezuelan Petroleum Company. Alirio Parra, when asked about the situation and prospects of oil prices said that "we are getting very good prices for the desulfurized fuel oil we are exporting." He pointed out that the price of this residual fuel is $19.95 per barrel, an increase of $7 over the price last year. Asked about the amount of fuel being exported at this price, Parra answered that it is a little over 300,000 barrels daily.

Parra also said that "there is such a great demand for this petroleum derivative that our clients are not concerned by the fact that the fuel oil has a certain level of sulfur; that is to say, they are just as interested, and at the prices set by Venezuela, in desulfurized fuel oil as in that which is not." Asked what prices for crude he could predict for the future, he said: "I think that a moderate upward trend will be maintained this year. We do not know exactly what could happen in 1980, but in the worst case the prices would be the same we have set for the end of 1979."

BRIEFS

MERCURY POLLUTION--Moron, Venezuela, 4 May (AFP)--In the past few years over 40 tons of mercury have been discharged into a small river that flows into the Caribbean close to this city, 150 km west of Caracas and the location of the country's main petrochemical plant. Employees of the petrochemical firm have estimated that El Alpargaton River has received an average of 20 tons of mercury yearly. The petrochemical plant workers have been suffering from deafness, dermatitis and dental problems. It has been proposed that the Moron petrochemical plant stop using mercury cells to produce sodium hydroxide. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0159 GMT 5 May 79 PA]

PRESIDENT ARISTIDES ROYO ARRIVES IN FRANCE

For French reportage on the official visit of President Royo to Paris, see the France section of the 8 May and subsequent issues of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

LIBYAN MISSION ARRIVES TO DISCUSS SALE OF CRUDE

PA080234 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 7 May 79 PA

[Text] The Panamanian authorities and an official mission from Libya today started talks on Panama's purchase of Libyan oil at prices advantageous to Panama, according to an announcement made here today by the director general of foreign trade, Ricardo Paredes. The transaction will be carried out in compliance with an offer made by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Gen Omar Torrijos in 1977 to sell Panama crude oil at a price acceptable to both countries.

Paredes said the Libyan mission is in Panama to evaluate and comply with the bilateral agreement signed by al-Qadhdhafi and Torrijos 2 years ago, and to reach an agreement that will promote economic relations between Libya and Panama. Paredes said there are great possibilities in that Arab nation for local products such as bananas, sugar, cement, rice and processed agricultural goods.

The Libyan mission also expressed that country's interest in making unlimited investments in the production of those goods that are in greater demand such as rice, tropical fruit juices, shrimp and other sea products. To make this possible, the Libyan Government has proposed mixed public and private Libyan investments with the government and private sector of Panama. This would insure the export of such products to Libya. The Libyan mission is scheduled to conclude its visit to Panama on Friday.

SWAPO OFFICIAL VISITS, MEETS LOCAL OFFICIALS

PA052135 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 5 May 79 p 1-B PA

[Excerpts] Helmut Angula, South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) Central Committee member and Caribbean representative with permanent headquarters in Havana, Cuba, met with Dr Judith de Salamin, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Africa section, and Foreign Policy General Director Aida Alba at the Foreign Ministry yesterday morning. Helmut Angula was in Panama in connection with the preparatory meeting of the Conference of Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People which will be held in Caracas, Venezuela, 13-15 July.

The SWAPO leader met with officials of the Foreign Ministry section at the Education Ministry, headed by Javier Bonagas. They exchanged views on the situation of the Namibian people. Finally, the distinguished visitor met with Acting Deputy Education Minister Jorge Arosemena concerning the possibility of offering educational aid to the Namibian people.

'AGGRESSIVE' AGENDA PREPARED FOR MEETING WITH CARTER

PA071739 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 7 May 79 pp 1-A, 10-A PA

[Text] Panamanian President Dr Aristides Royo will present U.S. President Jimmy Carter with an aggressive agenda during the meeting they will hold later this week. In this agenda, President Royo will inform the U.S. Government that the Panamanian people and government are determined to see that "both the spirit and the letter of the Torrijos-Carter treaties are enforced." The U.S. House of Representatives is trying to make changes that hinder the implementation of the treaties.

Along with the above-mentioned priority item, Royo will present important topics concerning respect for human rights and the violation of these rights in our area, particularly in Nicaragua, which affect countries such as Honduras, where over 15,000 Nicaraguans have sought asylum, and Costa Rica, where 20,000 Nicaraguans have also sought asylum.

Another important topic that Royo will discuss with Carter is drug trafficking, which Panama is endeavoring to control. It is worth noting that the Panamanian Government has pleased many congressmen by extraditing many Americans arrested for drug trafficking. President Royo's aggressive agenda will undoubtedly smooth the way for better understanding between Panama and the United States, the effects of which will reach other Latin American nations.

U.S. REJECTION OF PANAMANIAN WORKERS' CONTRACTS

PA042252 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 4 May 79 p 4-A PA

["El Termometro del Pais" column]

[Text] The U.S. House of Representatives' rejection of a general contract for Panamanian workers in the Canal Zone is a setback for Panamanian workers. These workers' gains have been incorporated into our national constitution and the refusal to accept a general contract maintains one of the permanent causes for conflict which was to have been eliminated by the new treaties.

According to a recent labor union charge, the situation is even more somber since the purpose of the refusal is to reduce the present salary level. This is an unjust attitude and can be interpreted as another abuse of the labor force that has enabled the canal to operate efficiently. It also pretends to ignore the salary adjustments that have been demanded due to the high cost of living.

General contracting is one of the labor rights included in our constitution. This means that the Republic of Panama cannot violate its mandate and create situations opposed to constitutional precepts in labor matters clearly expressed and expanded in our labor laws.

BRIEFS

REVIEW OF AGREEMENTS--High-level committees from Panama and Costa Rica today reviewed the agreements signed recently in Guabito, Bocas del Toro Province, by the presidents of the two nations to expand cultural and economic relations. The Costa Rican delegation was headed by Vice President Jose Miguel Alfaro, who was received by Acting Chief Executive Ricardo de la Espriella. The two delegations reviewed the bases of the agreement and took steps to insure that joint committees or the authorities of the two countries promptly adopt the required measures for prompt implementation of the agreements. [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 3 May 79 PA]

AMBASSADOR TO PHILIPPINES--The Panamanian Foreign Ministry has announced the appointment of Ramon Sieiro Murgas as the new Panamanian ambassador to the Philippines, with residence in Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China. [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 6 May 79 p 46 PA]

QUARTERLY REVENUE--The Panamanian Finance and Treasury Ministry collected a total of $121,390,185 in the first quarter of this year, which is an increase of $22,346,317 over the same period last year. [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 3 May 79 pp 1, 10-A PA]

COSTA RICA

RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA UNCHANGED, CARAZO SAYS

PA071452 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1405 GMT 7 May 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 7 May (ACAN-EFE)--Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio said that there is no possibility of resuming diplomatic relations with the Nicaraguan Government so long as the regime remains under the command of Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle. The chief executive noted that the break in relations occurred at the end of last year because the Somozist guard had murdered two Costa Rican policemen in Costa Rican territory. He said that apparently the Nicaraguan president has no intention of changing his manner of acting and leading the country. "That is why I consider that, so long as Somoza heads the neighboring republic, relations with Costa Rica will remain broken off."

BRIEFS

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE HEADS--It was officially confirmed here this afternoon that Rodrigo Madrigal will assume the post of chairman of the Neighborhood Affairs Standing Committee in the Legislative Assembly. It was also announced that Marco Naranjo will head the Government and Administration Committee, while Dr Grillo Rivera will become chairman of the Social Affairs Committee. Arnulfo Carmona Benavides will become chairman of the Economic Affairs Standing Committee. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 79 PA]

SUPREME COURT MAGISTRATES--The plenary session of the Legislative Assembly today unanimously reelected (Olga de) Cervantes, Gonzalo Retana and Rafael Benavides to the Supreme Court. It also selected Alfredo (Cover), Alvaro Carvajal and Armando Saborio Vargas as new members of the court. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 79 PA]

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL PRESIDENT--Manuel Rafael Iglesias Echevarria was appointed president of the supreme electoral tribunal for a 2-year period effective 8 May. He replaces Francisco Saenz Mesas. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 May 79 PA]

ALBANIAN AMBASSADOR--Labo Abazi will be the first Albanian ambassador to Costa Rica. Abazi, who resides in Mexico, has arrived in San Jose to present his credentials. [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 27 Apr 79 p 6-A PA]

EL SALVADOR

PRB SEIZURE OF FRENCH, COSTA RICAN EMBASSIES CONTINUES

Release of 5 Hostages

PA080303 Paris AFP in Spanish 0251 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 7 May (AFP)--It was confirmed here that the group that had taken over the Costa Rican Embassy today released the five hostages it had been holding since Friday.

Giscard, Royo Comments

LD072122 Paris Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 7 May 79 LD

[Text] The situation remains unchanged at the French Embassy in San Salvador, where our ambassador and five of his colleagues have been in the hands of a commando group of the People's Revolutionary Bloc for 4 days now.

During a luncheon today at the Elysee given for Panamanian President Aristides Royo, President Giscard d'Estaing said that events in San Salvador are causing him and his government anxiety. The Panamanian president said that Panama will do all it can to contribute to a solution.

French Efforts

LD061340 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 6 May 79 LD

[Text] The director of american affairs at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has arrived in San Salvador. He was immediately received by the minister of foreign affairs of El Salvador. In addition, the Quai d'Orsay has contacted the French ambassador to El Salvador, who is still being held hostage by 16 members of a commando of the People's Revolutionary Bloc [BRP]. Ambassador Michel Dondenne told the ministry that complete calm reigns in the embassy building. French Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean Francois-Poncet has received the El Salvador ambassador to France. He expressed to the ambassador the government's concern for the fate of the French people held by the BRP.

Release of Costa Rican Ambassador

PA081225 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0434 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 7 May (ACAN-EFE)--Costa Rican Ambassador to El Salvador Julio Esquivel Valverde left the embassy today, while three People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) members remained inside. Shortly afterward, the ambassador left for Costa Rica aboard a special plane. The report on the ambassador's departure was confirmed to ACAN-EFE by Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth. He explained that, although the ambassador left the embassy, the security corps did not enter the building. He recalled that it is Costa Rican territory and it will be up to the government of that country to decide what to do. Secretary and Vice Consul Rose Mary Guevara and secretary Anabel Castillo--both Costa Rican--as well as Salvadoran workers Elsa Esperanza Alas and Rosa Vilma Arias got out along with Ambassador Esquivel Valverde.

Support From Strikers

PA071805 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1644 GMT 7 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 7 May (ACAN-EFE)--Fifteen Salvadoran labor unions today staged a 4-hour strike in solidarity with the leftists who are occupying the cathedral and the Costa Rican and French embassies. A committee of labor unions that planned the strike said that more strikes might occur unless the government agrees to release Facundo Guardado, secretary general of the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BRP). The strike was carried out in several bottling companies, textile plants, metal workshops, and furniture factories.

TERRORIST ACTIVITIES SPREADING THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

Violence in Armenia

PA041457 Paris AFP in Spanish 0126 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 3 May (AFP)--A commando of the Revolutionary People's Army today machinegunned to death Eduardo Rodriguez, mayor of Armenia, 38 km southwest of San Salvador. According to a communique which the clandestine group left near Rodriguez' body, the action was an "execution." It does not indicate the reasons. The Armenia mayor was the coordinator of the pro-government Nationalist Democratic Organization and leader of the ruling National Conciliation Party.

Situation Worsens

PA050019 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2144 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] Armenia, El Salvador, 4 May (ACAN-EFE)--Several bombs exploded and a convent was machinegunned today in this Salvadoran town whose mayor was shot to death in an attack for which leftist guerrillas assumed responsibility. A priest, Walter Guerra, has been arrested in connection with the mayor's killing. The machinegunning of the convent was believed to be in revenge for the murder of the mayor, who was walking with Guerra toward the municipal offices at the time of the attack.

Members of the Revolutionary People's Army [ERP] carried out the attack. However, the priest was arrested because the police suspect that he may be linked to the murder. Guerra said today at the local court that he was a very good friend of the mayor and was at the time of the murder walking with him to request a permit to hold a benefit barbecue for the parish church. The priest picked up Mayor Eduardo Rodriguez Flores after the attack, placed him in an automobile and took him to a hospital, but the mayor died on the way.

Priest Cleared of Charges

PA050414 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0225 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 4 May (ACAN-EFE)--Walter Guerra, the Catholic priest of Armenia, a town located 39 km west of San Salvador, who was charged with involvement in the assassination of the mayor of the town, was released today. Judicial authorities in Armenia ordered the release after investigation proved his innocence of the crime, part of the wave of extremist violence with which El Salvador is afflicted.

3 Deaths in San Salvador

PA050429 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0113 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 4 May (ACAN-EFE)--The underground Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces assumed responsibility today for the killing of watchman Rafael Melendez Solis and two traffic policemen. According to the extremist group, they first killed Solis, and as they fled from San Salvador's southern sector, they met with policemen Alfredo Rodriguez and Sarbelio Becines, whom they machinegunned. An anonymous caller revealed to the various information media that the operation had been called "a halt to repression." The presidential house said it will release a communique shortly on the acts of violence.

Violence in Support of BPR

PA070412 Paris AFP in Spanish 2136 GMT 6 May 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 6 May (AFP)--The Popular Liberation Front [FPL] today claimed responsibility for the attack which cost the life of a Salvadoran policeman on Saturday. In a communique sent to the press, the FPL noted that it supports the members of the People's Revolutionary Bloc who are occupying the Costa Rican and French embassies and the cathedral. The FPL threatened to continue its wave of violence if the BPR demands are not met. The policeman was the third one killed by the FPL in less than 24 hours. The FPL killed two policemen on Friday and announced that the killings are the start of an operation called "fight repression."

GUATEMALA

INDIANS ARE REPORTEDLY JOINING GUERRILLAS

PA041844 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2301 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 3 May (ACAN-EFE)--Young Indians of western Guatemala are said to be leaving their farms and communities to support and join the guerrillas operating in the area. A report to this effect was provided today, Thursday, by the PRENSA LIBRE newspaper together with accounts by "witnesses" and an expansion on the incidents which occurred in that area. The self-styled People's Guerrilla Army (EGP), a leftist faction, has been operating in the area since last year. It has staged a series of operations which led to regular army forces being dispatched this week to try to control the outbreak.

HONDURAS

TALKS BEGIN ON LAND SHORTAGE ISSUE

PA051433 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0055 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 4 May (ACAN-EFE)--Talks began in this capital yesterday in order to prevent a confrontation between peasants and police. Leaders of the Social Christian National Union of Peasants (UNC) of Honduras and officials of the National Agrarian Institute (INA) began a series of meetings to try to solve the land shortage problem. UNC Secretary General Marcial Euceda said that this year his organization has demanded 11,000 hectares for its members.

According to Euceda, yesterday's meeting, which ended in the late evening hours, "was positive. We were able to get land in the southern department of Choluteca where we occupied more than 700 manzanas." He said that invasions in Cortes, Santa Rosa de Copan and Yodo will soon be negotiated. He also said that he found government officials receptive. He said: "It seems they do not want another confrontation which will further harm their poor image nationally and internationally."

STUDENTS OCCUPY EDUCATION MINISTRY

PA071919 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1810 GMT 7 May 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 May (ACAN-EFE)--Today, over 500 Honduran students occupied the Honduran Education Ministry in Tegucigalpa demanding better classroom conditions and a salary increase for their teachers. The students, from several high schools, also stopped traffic. Grammar school and high school teachers have been asking for substantial salary increases since the beginning of the year, but the ministry has said that it has no funds for this.

NICARAGUA

U.S. ACCUSED OF INTERVENING IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

PA071915 Paris AFP in Spanish 1859 GMT 7 May 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 7 Man (AFP)--Nicaragua today accused the United States of intervening in its domestic affairs. Foreign Ministry spokesman Rafael Rojas announced that Nicaragua flatly rejects a U.S. Government statement issued on 4 May referring to Nicaragua. The U.S. State Department statement condemned the arrest of five important leaders of the the Broad Opposition Front (FAO), ordered by authorities on 30 April. The Nicaraguan Government announced that the five leaders are under arrest suspected of having planned the subversive acts of engaging in arms trafficking.

The official statement issued today by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry says that "under no circumstances can the Nicaraguan Government permit foreign governments to judge the actions of its government." Meanwhile, isolated violent incidents took place in Managua over the weekend and today. Two civilians were killed in a shootout with police patrols in San Cristobal, a suburb southeast of Managua.

TWO KILLED IN POLICE CLASH IN MANAGUA

PA071929 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1501 GMT 7 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 7 May (ACAN-EFE)--A man and a woman were killed today in a shootout this morning in Managua when a group of about 20 rebels clashed with police patrols in the southeastern part of Managua.

Since 0500 today (1200 GMT), the Sandinists have stopped several automobiles along the southern highway and used them as barricades along this avenue and surrounding streets. They then started moving around the area shouting revolutionary slogans and firing shots into the air. Two guerrillas were killed in the shootout between police and the guerrillas. The bodies were taken to the morgue, but have not been identified yet. The police reported today that over 30 youths arrested during the 1 May disturbances were released over the weekend.

NEW INCIDENTS REPORTED IN PAST 24 HOURS

PA070421 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2316 GMT 6 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 6 May (ACAN-EFE)--Twelve more killed, confrontations between guerrillas and army troops, attacks and new arrests is the balance reported over the past 24 hours were as a result of the political-military unrest which has been afflicting Nicaraguans over the past 2 years.

Two men dressed in civilian clothes, allegedly connected with the National Guard command in the city of Granada, in the country's eastern sector, and one civilian were killed on Saturday night as a result of an armed clash which occurred on the road to Managua. The incident has not been officially reported.

The military authorities took the bodies of two enlisted men to "El Retiro" morgue at dawn today. The bodies of the enlisted men had come from air force hangars, it was reported. The place and circumstances under which the soldiers were killed were not revealed. The victims were Vicente Perez and Modesto Vasquez. Two other Nicaraguans between 18 and 20 years of age were taken to the morgue from the town of San Benito, 36 km north of Managua, where they were killed when they confronted army soldiers at dawn on Saturday.

Ramon Emilio Brenes is another victim of the violence. He was shot dead yesterday in the San Jose Oriental suburb, in Managua's southeast sector. Meanwhile, Jose Antonio Ochoa was shot and stabbed to death by unidentified persons near the Oriental market. The bodies of two youths were picked up near the downtown Bank of America branch and the Maximo Perez Colony. Their bodies showed bullet holes.

Moreover, in its Sunday edition, the evening newspaper LA PRENSA carried a report by Radio Sandino, the clandestine radio station of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], confirming that fighting had taken place in the Atlantic coast area near Nueva Guinea, an agrarian settlement located in the country's northeast sector. According to Radio Sandino, the fighting, officially denied by National Guard spokesmen, took place on the banks of the Chacalin River, a tributary of the Punta Gorda River.

Meanwhile, there were more reports on the arrest of citizens of all ages. The arrest of Dr Luis Medina Bravo, a member of one of the organizations of the Broad Opposition Front, was reported today. The attacks reported today include a second FSLN incursion in the "northwestern rural" cooperative in Chinandega, in the country's west. The Sandinist incursion netted the attackers 30,000 cordobas ($3,000). They gave the cashier a red and black flag, their emblem.

AIR FORCE PLANE CRASHES; OPERATIONS CONTINUE

PA050304 Paris AFP in Spanish 0119 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 4 May (AFP)--It was stated here today that the crash of an air force plane and the air force's operations on the Costa Rican border are signs of the continuing political violence in Nicaragua. The plane that crashed was an Israeli "Avra," which the Nicaraguan Air Force has been using for reconnaissance bombing missions in the interior. It has not yet been explained why the plane crashed near Jilda Lagoon, 10 km north of Managua.

The punishment operations which the air force has been conducting near the border in the Atlantic area of Nueva Guinea, some 350 km northwest of Managua, are very important and provide support for the army.

According to new information disclosed here today, the main action is occurring on the banks of the Chacalin River, near the government's "Verdun" Colony. At this site, the army, supported by the air force, blocked the entrance to the colony after the Sandinist National Liberation Front reportedly inflicted dozens of casualties during an ambush on 1 May. According to the army, the Sandinists arrived at the site by sailing along the San Juan River, on the Costa Rican border.

BRIEFS

HIGHER CUSTOMS REVENUE--Managua, 3 May (ACAN-EFE)--The most recent Nicaraguan Customs Department report states that customs revenue for the first quarter of 1979 amounted to $24.3 million at the exchange rate of seven cordobas to 1 dollars, compared to $19.4 million for the first quarter of 1978. The Customs Department also reports increases of $4.6 million in general sales taxes and $2.3 million in selective consumer taxes during the same period. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1807 GMT 3 May 79 PA]

NEW CHILEAN AMBASSADOR--Managua, 4 May (ACAN-EFE)--The new Chilean ambassador to Costa Rica, Carabinero General Eduardo Gordon Canas, today presented his credentials to Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza Debayle. Gordon Canas replaces Manuel Stagno Mignone. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2355 GMT 4 May 79 PA]

CASTRO CHAIRS PCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

FL071127 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 7 May 79 FL

[Text] The eighth plenum of the PCC Central Committee, held on 4 May and chaired by its first secretary, Comrade Fidel Castro, examined and approved the Politburo report on party work during 1978. The report was termed very positive both nationally and internationally.

Also examined by the plenum were the results of the evaluations conducted by party leaderships at different levels, the Union of Young Communists, state agencies and mass organizations on the fulfillment of the First Party Congress agreements during the first 3 years of the 1976-1980 period.

The plenum decided that a number of agreements are being fulfilled in a satisfactory and encouraging manner, and at the same time it was determined that some of them require a superior effort to fulfill and others present special difficulties due to objective reasons. The plenum adopted measures to achieve the maximum objectives possible in the remaining portion of the 5-year period, and approved a resolution that will be published in coming days so that the working masses learn about the progress of the First Party Congress agreements. Likewise, the results of the elections of people's government delegates were also examined. The initial recommendations for the preparations of the Second Party Congress were examined and approved.

Elected as members of the party Secretariat were comrades Leonel Soto Prieto and Julio Camacho Aguilera, who will continue his functions as first secretary in Havana City. The closing remarks were made by Comrade Fidel Castro.

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

FL071139 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 7 May 79 FL

[Text] Ceremonies were held yesterday throughout the country to establish the people's government provincial assemblies. Guillermo Garcia attended the ceremony in Granma Province, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Osvaldo Dorticos the one in Cienfuegos, Julio Camacho Aguilera the one in Havana City Province and Faustino Perez and Reinaldo Castro the one in Matanzas.

Reelected as presidents of the Havana City and Havana provincial assemblies were Oscar Fernandez Mell and Pedro Chavez, respectively.

CIENFUEGOS BULK SUGAR EXPORT FIGURES REPORTED

FL072127 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2105 GMT 7 May 79 FL

[Text] The Tricontinental port terminal in Cienfuegos Province has exported more than 1 million tons of bulk sugar so far, according to a report from Tomas Castro Corteso, director of that enterprise. He stated that 52 ships from various countries, mainly socialist countries, have been loaded to fulfill the enterprise's international pledges. Tomas Castro reported that in the first four months of 1979 the workers at the terminal have saved the country 3.5 million dollars by not using sugar sacks. He also pointed out that the achievements made during this period are the results of the outstanding work carried out by the workers at this bulk sugar terminal.

Tomas Castro, director of the terminal, pointed out that the workers at that enterprise are pledged to fulfill the loading plan for the USSR on schedule to salute the 26th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks. He recalled that since the facility's inauguration on 9 November 1977 it has loaded more than 15 million tons of sugar.

Tomas Castro called on the provinces of Villa Clara, Cienfuegos and Sancti Spiritus--which supply sugar to Tricontinental--to send the planned volume of sugar on time. He expressed confidence in the workers of the Tricontinental terminal and called on them to fulfill the export plans scheduled for the enterprise.

MALMIERCA ENDS VISIT TO FINLAND, GOES TO BELGIUM

FL071041 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 7 May 79 FL

[Text] Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who has concluded an official visit to Finland, traveled to Belgium Sunday. The Cuban foreign minister valued as very positive the results of his visit to that Nordic country. The Finnish radio and television interviewed Malmierca on the nonalined movement and its upcoming sixth summit conference.

PINEIRO RECEIVES GUYANESE PARTY DELEGATION

FL031637 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 May 79 FL

[Text] Manuel Pineiro, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its America Department, has received a delegation of the Guyana's People's Progressive Party [PPP] that is visiting our country. The Guyanese delegation, composed of PPP Executive Committee Members (Narbada Persuad) and (Clyton Colomor) and Central Committee Member (Cyril Bergrave), held an exchange of views on the international situation and the development of relations between the two parties. Osvaldo Cardenas and Manuel Guillot, section chief and official, respectively, of the America Department, attended the meeting.

GDR SCIENTIFIC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN HAVANA

FL051812 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 May 79 FL

[Text] [GDR cosmonaut] Sigmund Jaehn has arrived in Havana as part of the GDR scientific delegation that is headed by Dr (Rolf Jodin), deputy director of the GDR Academy of Sciences Electronics Institute. The delegation will be participating in the fifth meeting of the Intercosmos program working group for satellite remote sensing of the earth, which will be held in Havana 9 - 17 May. They were welcomed by Prof Jose Altshuler, president of the Cuban Intercosmos Commission, (Werner Rathke), ambassador of the GDR to Cuba [as heard], and others.

BRIEFS

MEXICAN DELEGATION--During the second day in our country, the delegation of Mexico's sugar industry general directorate has visited Holguin's 60th October Revolution Anniversary sugarcane harvester factory. The group arrived in Holguin from Havana City, accompanied by Iron and Steel Industry Minister Lester Rodriguez. While visiting the Urbano Noris sugar mill, one of the largest in the country, the delegation observed the operation of a gathering center and a KTP-2 harvester. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 May 79 FL]

NEW MATANZAS COOPERATIVE--A new credit and service cooperative which will basically be concerned with growing sugarcane has been established in Perico municipality, Matanzas Province. It is named "17 de Mayo" and includes 123 members. This is the third credit and service cooperative established in Perico municipality. [Matanzas Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 May 79 FL]